

Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

**Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized
System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals**

5 December 2013

Twenty-sixth session

Geneva, 4 – 6 December 2013

Item 2 (d) of the provisional agenda

Outcome of the meeting of the informal working group on dust explosion hazards held on 4 December

Transmitted by the expert from the United States on behalf of the informal working group

1. The dust explosion hazards correspondence group met and discussed informal documents 15 and 21. Since the correspondence group had not met for some time, a review of work completed to date was provided before presenting the proposals contained in the informal papers. The correspondence group had a lively discussion about how to proceed with workstream 3 (that is, whether to develop an outline or work plan for guidance or a chapter in the GHS to address dust explosion hazards). If the correspondence group agreed to develop a chapter, the chair suggested it would follow the normal conventions, including developing a definition, classification criteria, communication elements, and other guidance.
2. Several experts felt that it is important to provide guidance to better communicate the hazard. This guidance might take the form of an agreed definition and perhaps focus on better communication elements. Experts were concerned about identifying labeling elements for some substances. Experts requested that the correspondence group better define the scope of the hazard – that is, what substances does the hazard cover; is the hazard of concern when shipped or when processed?
3. Other experts felt that a chapter would be more beneficial in providing harmonized criteria for those jurisdictions that require classification of the hazard in order to include it in their regulatory systems. It was noted that accidents resulting from these hazards often occur during processing; however, workplaces cannot provide adequate warning and protections if they do not know the hazard exists. The proposed chapter would focus on those substances that present a dust explosion hazard in their shipped form.
4. Using the definitions provided at the meeting, the correspondence group chair offered to develop a thought starter to better identify the scope of the hazard and include elements for a definition of the hazard.
5. After the meeting, some experts requested a conference call for the correspondence group to move the work forward before the summer session. If the correspondence group agrees, the chair proposes to host the call in mid- February.